

Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • May/June 2015



Discover Nature this Summer



Flower fragrance floats in the air. A breeze twirls fresh green leaves. Birds grab bugs from the greenery for a snack. Butterflies visit blossoms for nectar or drink from rain puddles. Summer is a beautiful time for a walk outdoors, and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) areas offer excellent opportunities.

Hiking amid wildflowers is not just for those in the countryside. Street traffic sounds are everywhere if you live in the middle of Kansas City. But spend a few minutes in the gardens at the **Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center** and traffic noise and stress melts away. The Discovery Center is the perfect lunchtime

or after-work getaway. Kids should not miss the log tunnel. Wood-chip trails cut through the prairie and forest habitats.

The Discovery Center garden is an excellent place for repeat visits in summer. A wide variety of native wildflowers, grasses and trees are planted to show just how wonderfully attractive they can be when used in urban landscape plantings. The garden is a teaching tool about wild Missouri, but also just a pleasant place to be. The shapes and colors in the garden change throughout the summer as various plants grow and bloom, taking their turn in the sun.

or after-work getaway. Surround yourself with the peaceful sound of the prairie grasses as you wind down from your day. Dip your toes in the pond while eating your sandwich. Kids and adults alike will find endless pleasure watching for frogs and tadpoles. You'll spy a turtle sunning on a log or the occasional great blue heron visiting the pond. Tucked into the middle of the city, the Discovery Center is an oasis of outdoor fun.

A paved trail circles the garden and its prairie, wetland and woodland habitat. The trail takes you past the demonstration garden with butterfly-friendly plants. Sycamore Station, a natural materials children's play area, beckons with logs, rocks, sticks and stones

In Blue Springs, a lot of splashing and hiking occurs at **Burr Oak Woods Nature Center** in May and June. There is something for all ages and interests.

In May, we offer a family fishing program for all ages. Fishing is one of the best ways to teach children about nature. Sometimes just discovering is what counts, as children ages 3 to 5 will discover the wonderful world of water while exploring Burr Oak Creek. Even our youngest babes can get in on the fun as the Babes in the Woods program splashes in the education pond.

In June, bird enthusiasts will also gather at Burr Oak Creek in search of bird species unique to a stream corridor. Adults have not been forgotten. Come out to learn about some alternative fishing methods like trot lines, jug lines, bows and gigs.

The **Lake City Shooting Range** does not have any trails. However, the range is located in Jackson County's Landahl Park. That park has trails that travel through mostly wooded hillsides. The parks trails system has 15 miles for hiking and mountain biking with easy to difficult terrain.

Parma Woods Shooting Range has a focus on firearms and outdoor education. But the range and building only occupy 30 acres of the 200-acre area. Beyond the range are trails leading uphill and down through the broken terrain of the loess hills overlooking the Missouri River flood plain. These dirt trails are a path into a forest area with a mix of trees, shrubs and flowers that is close to what Platte County's river hills looked like before European settlement in the early 1800s.

Whether your aim is an easy hike or a leg stretcher, paved trail or rough going, our MDC areas in the Kansas City metro can get you outside and hiking.

Visit <http://mdc.mo.gov> to find details on these and other outdoor opportunities.

— Bill Graham, Media Specialist

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays · 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed every other Friday (May 1, 15 & 29 and June 12 & 26).

Family Fishing

May 9 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (families)

Summer is a great time to take your family fishing. We will teach some fishing basics; provide equipment and worms and then let you and your family try your luck. Kids who attend will be entered in a drawing for a new fishing gear. **Lessons 1 and 2 of the Discover Nature Fishing program are included in the class.**

Little Acorns:

Wonderful World of Water

May 9 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

May 13 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

No matter if it's just a puddle or trickling stream, we will be exploring the wonders of water by dipping our nets (and feet) in Burr Oak Creek. Join us as we learn about the critters that live and visit this special place in a wet and wild Little Acorns special event!

Babes in the Woods: Pond Play

May 12 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

Registration required

(babes under 36 months)

Little ones love the water. It's a great way to experience nature on a warm day. Join Naturalist Kathleen at our education pond for some splashing with your babe.

What's Blooming?

May 12 · Tuesday · 1–3 PM

Registration required (adults)

Put some beauty, color and nutrition into your meals with Missouri's edible wildflowers. A hike is included.

Home School:

Trees – Nature's Superstars

May 13 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

Registration required

Trees are terrific! Join this program to discover how valuable forests are to wildlife and people, find out how trees “work” and learn about some awesome trees it would be difficult to live without.

Evening Explorations: For Families with Children on the Autism Spectrum

May 21 · Thursday · 6–7 PM

No registration required

You are invited to explore the nature center on this special evening, just for you! Experience the exhibits without crowds; the lighting, noise level and visual stimulation will all be softened. Naturalists will be available to answer any questions you might have. Come out and have fun!



Summer is a great time to take your family fishing. Join us for Family Fishing, May 9 at Burr Oak Woods.

Fish Print Art

May 23 · Saturday · 10 AM–Noon

Walk-in (all ages)

Prime up for Free Fishing Weekend (June 6–7) by diving into this fun method of recording your fishy catch! Using rubber fish and acrylic or tempera paints, finger painters to skilled artists will create a Gyo-taku (a fish rubbing in Japanese) to take home.

Conservation Kids Club: Take Your Parent Camping

May 29–30 · Friday–Saturday · 6 PM–8 AM

Registration required (ages 7–13 accompanied by a parent/guardian)

Kids! Have you always wanted to go camping? Whether you are an old hand at camping or you have always wanted to try it, this campout is for you. Don't miss out on this special evening under the stars. Activities include canoeing, fishing, stories and songs around the campfire. Equipment may be borrowed upon request.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

May 30 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

June 27 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+) Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

Little Acorns: Cane Pole Fishing

June 6 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

Our poles are ready and waiting. The fish are biting and the worms are wiggling. All we require are some Little Acorns to hold tight and catch a big one!

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280

Gathering at Little Blue Trace

June 13 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

Registration required (adults)

Bring your foraging bag, camera, smart phone and ID books! We are foraging along the Little Blue Trace Trail for wild edible plants. Who knows what we will discover!

Alternative Fishing Methods

June 13 · Saturday · Noon–2 PM

Registration required (adults)

Trot lines, jug lines, bows and gigs have been used to catch fish in Missouri for many years. But what are they and how do you catch fish with them? Many people today only fish with a pole and line, but other methods are fun and effective.

Firefly Experience

June 20 · Saturday · 7:30–9:30 PM

Registration required (all ages)

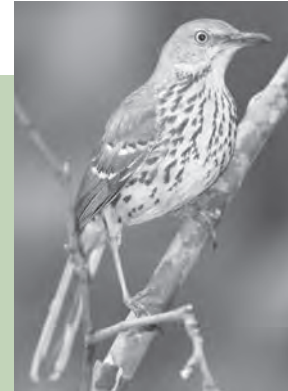
Blinking and dancing in the evening sky, the magic and beauty of fireflies is breathtaking. Use this evening to learn more about this favorite insect. Then hike into the darkening forest and watch the fireflies appear.

Great Slithering Snakes

June 27 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Missouri is home to more than 40 different snakes. How many can you identify by sight? This program is sure to be a hissing good time with quizzes, live snakes, fun facts and myth busters. You may even see some of our snakes enjoy a meal.



The brown thrasher is a mimic, known for repeating the songs of other birds.

BIRDING

No registration required (all ages)

All birding levels are welcome and binoculars are available to borrow.

Birding Off the Beaten Path

May 9 · Saturday · 7–8 AM

Step off the beaten path and explore an area not seen by most. This month meet at the front gate to bird watch where we have never watched before!

Birding Burr Oak Creek

June 6 · Saturday · 7–8 AM

Shake out your shorts, dust off your binoculars and throw on your water shoes. This month we are birding Burr Oak Creek! This seldom explored section may harbor some unique bird species. Meet at the Bethany Falls parking lot.

FAMILIES

Registration required; space is limited (families with children 8+)

Air Rifles

May 16 · Saturday

12:30–1:30 PM or 2–3 PM

Whether you call them air rifles, BB guns or pellet guns, air powered rifles can be safe and fun to shoot. They are a great introduction to shooting sports for many people. Join us for an exciting day as we discuss safety and proper techniques, then try to hit some bull's-eyes!

Archery

May 30 · Saturday · 10 AM–Noon

Discover the ancient art of archery! Come with your children to learn the fundamentals and proper techniques of this classic sport; then enjoy some target practice together.



BECOME A PART OF THE ADVENTURE ...

Outdoor Skills Camp!

BLOCK I:
Air Rifles
Archery
Canoeing

BLOCK II:
Fishing
Orienteering
Atlatl

If you love to have fun outdoors, and would like to learn new skills, then this program is for you! Teamwork, safety and leadership are stressed. Join us in June to learn the basics of Air Rifles, Archery, Canoeing, Fishing, Orienteering and Atlatl.

How to register:

Call 816-228-3766

FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS ONLY:

registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19

RETURNING PARTICIPANTS:

registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20

WALK-IN REGISTRATION IS NOT PERMITTED FOR THIS PROGRAM.

Pick your session from these dates and blocks:

Ages 8–11

Mix or Match Days

DATE	8:30 AM–Noon	12:30–4 PM
JUNE 2,5,9,12,17	Block I	Block II
JUNE 3,11,18	Block II	Block I

Ages 12–18

Mix or Match Days

DATE	Block I	Block II
JUNE 4,16	Block I	Block II
JUNE 10	Block II	Block I

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday
and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Beginning Archery

May 1 • Friday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12–17)

Archery is becoming very popular with younger people. Many of the schools



hold competitions between schools and between districts in the area. Learn the fundamentals of shooting archery such as proper stance, draw technique, equipment and follow through.

Basic Handgun

May 3 • Sunday • 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics covered will include safety in the home, types of handguns, parts of the handgun, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

Introduction to Metallic Cartridge Reloading: Pistol

May 6 • Wednesday • 6–8:30 PM

Registration required (adults)

If you have ever been interested in reloading your own pistol cases, this is a good way to get started. We will cover many different topics on reloading including equipment, safety concerns, loading data and more.

Introduction to Skeet Shooting

May 9 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

Teens and Firearms–Muzzleloader

May 14 • Thursday • 9–11 AM

Registration required (ages 11–17)

This course is designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of firearms. Topics covered will include safety, parts of a muzzleloader, marksmanship and much more. Continue to participate in the Teens and Firearms class every month to have fun and improve your skills with guidance and coaching offered by the Lake City Staff. This class includes range time.

Basic Handgun...Plus

May 17 • Sunday • 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This course continues where the Basic Pistol course ends. The topics of discussion include purchasing a firearm, legalities of owning a firearm, ammunition facts, cleaning and storage. We also will work more on your marksmanship skills on the range.

Teens & Firearms–Pistol

June 11 • Thursday • 6–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 11–17)

This course is designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of firearms. Topics to be covered will include safety, parts of a pistol, marksmanship and much more. Continue to participate in the Teens and Firearms class every month to have fun and improve your skills with guidance and coaching offered by the Lake City Staff. This class includes range time.

Basic Shotgun

June 19 • Friday • 5:30–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Introduction to shotgun shooting must begin with safety and knowledge of the equipment. Knowing your shotgun is the first step to knowing how to shoot. This course is to help give the student a basic understanding of types of shotguns, actions, shot shells and follow through. Range time is included.

Beyond The Basics of Pistol Shooting

June 25 • Thursday • 5:30–9 PM

Registration required (adults)

Looking to expand your knowledge and abilities on the pistol range? In this course you will improve your overall marksmanship skills, learn how to handle your firearm more efficiently, plus much more. NOTE: You must be an experienced shooter to attend this course and you must have your own firearm. No single-action revolvers will be allowed. Bring your firearm, ammunition, and two magazines or speed loaders.

Women on the Range: An Unmatched Experience

June 27 • Saturday • 8–4 PM

Registration required (women ages 18+)

The Women on the Range program is a safe and fun way for like-minded women to enjoy a day of shooting in a friendly, safe environment. This all-day event will cover rifles and pistols to shotguns and archery. It is a great way to introduce you and others to the sport of shooting and to the different shooting disciplines offered. The one-on-one coaching offered by the friendly Lake City staff will give you the support needed to obtain the skills of a basic shooter and give you a better understanding of what the shooting sports can offer you.

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

Keeping Your Edge

I have learned that the most dangerous knife is a dull knife. When a blade becomes dull the user works harder to make the intended cuts. When more force is applied it can cause the blade to slip through and make an unintended cut. Over the years I have had my fair share of cuts. In fact, I seem to continually cut and nick myself with my knives. Most often it's because I don't stop and take the time to sharpen my knife when it needs to be sharpened. I have learned that it is generally quicker and safer to simply stop and sharpen the knife. The time lost sharpening is quickly made up for by the knife working more efficiently.

The same philosophy can be applied to many other kinds of tools. If you're a hunter, you need to keep your edge

with your shooting skills and your equipment too. The summer months are a great time to hone your skills and fix any issues that appeared during the last season. Now is the time to make adjustments to your equipment. You will have plenty of time to practice your

shooting skills and learn to use your new tools effectively. This could mean all the difference on your next outing. Take some time to get out this summer and sharpen your edge. Taking a bit of time now could save you a lot of grief later on. If you're looking for a place to go, check out one of the MDC shooting ranges. We have a number of staffed and unstaffed ranges scattered throughout the state for your shooting convenience. For more info on the staffed ranges visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/node/6209>, for unstaffed ranges visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/node/4460>.

— Nathan Woodland,
Parma Woods Range Supervisor

.22 Plinking Class

May 6 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 8+; ages 8–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Cheap and fun to shoot, the .22 long rifle cartridge is one of the oldest still in existence today. One of the many reasons it has survived is because it is. Join our staff of certified instructors shooting at many types of reactive targets in a safe and controlled environment. This is not an introductory course; participants should have a solid understanding of firearms safety and be able to apply the basic principles appropriately. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Intro to Shotgun Shooting

May 15 · Friday · 5:30–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Shooting a shotgun at a moving target can be a humbling experience. Misses often come easy, but our certified instructors can make your transition from a stationary target to a moving one a bit simpler. Attendees should expect a lecture regarding safety, shotgun basics, shooting fundamentals and more. Afterwards we'll head to the range to put the theory into practice.

Youth Air Rifle

May 20 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 8–15; youths must be accompanied by an adult)

Many shooters learn to master the skills of marksmanship using an air rifle. The virtual lack of recoil and relatively quiet discharge creates a good environment where a new shooter can learn to focus on the fundamentals. We'll discuss safety, different types of air rifles and fundamentals of shooting, and then we'll practice those fundamentals with some live fire exercises.

Introduction to Firearms

June 10 · Wednesday · 5:30–8:30 PM and

June 11 · Thursday · 5:30–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Staying safe around firearms requires the appropriate level of knowledge and skill combined with a positive attitude. Join our certified firearms instructors as we explore the fun of shooting in a safe and controlled environment. This course will cover all major types of firearms and will include live fire.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Youth Hunter Education Day Camp

June 29–July 3 · Monday–Friday · 9 AM–3 PM

Registration required (ages 11–15)

This annual event at Parma Woods Range is an extended version of our traditional Hunter Education Class. Youths that participate in this year's day camp will get the opportunity to receive valuable hands on experience in the safe handling and shooting of rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading rifles and archery equipment. Other skills incorporated in this year's camp will include survival skills, scouting for game, tracking game, map & compass navigation and more. Students should plan to attend all 5 sessions. Youths that successfully pass the exam at the conclusion of the class will receive Hunter Education Certification.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM
Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Grow Native Special Event

May 2 • Saturday • 9:30 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Are you tired of constantly watering and weeding your landscape plants? If so, try replacing those plants with native flowers and grasses. Native plants tolerate our tough Missouri weather much better than non-native varieties. Join us for a day of learning



the wide variety of native plants that can suit your landscaping needs. You will learn about and make a “seed ball” to get an easy head start on planting native seeds of grasses and flowers. You can also learn about native trees and how they can

add long-lasting value and beauty to your landscape. While you're here, transplant and take home some native trees, grasses and flowers to add instant, trouble free beauty to your landscape.

Annual Plant Exchange

May 2 • Saturday • 9:30 AM–Noon
Walk-in (all ages)

Get a jump start on your outdoor gardens, share successful and bountiful plants from your garden and enjoy the beauty of others plantings. Exchange plants from your home with those from other Kansas City gardeners. Everyone will leave with new plants to grow this spring and summer. See the article on page 8 for more details.

Nature Nuts Storytime

May 2 • Saturday • 1–2 PM
May 16 • Saturday • 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Artist Meet and Greet

May 5 • Tuesday • 6–7 PM
Walk-in (all ages welcome)

The Discovery Center is pleased to have the artwork of Mary Ann Foster on display during the months of May and June. As an art teacher for 23 years, Mary Ann's message to her students was simple; sit in the field, draw among nature's elements, and capture the moment. We hope you take a moment to stop in and meet this amazing artist and appreciate her artwork, Mary Ann will be available to meet and answer questions.

The Eastern Bluebird and Its Resurgence in Missouri

May 5 • Tuesday • 7 PM
Walk-in (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with adult participant)

Discover the life history, specific feeding and nesting requirements of Missouri's state bird. Larry Dobsen, Vice President of the Missouri Bluebird Society, will describe the resurgence of bluebird populations in Missouri and inspire bluebird enthusiasts to establish and maintain nestboxes and habitats that will attract and support this beautiful bird. Nestbox plans and other resources will be available as well. Program sponsored by Burroughs Audubon.

Just for the Big Kids Adult Summer Camp

Why should kids get all the fun? You know you want to try archery, gigging for frogs and exploring a prairie like kids do at summer camp. The Discovery Center staff has created programs just for the kid in all of us. Join our experienced staff this summer to learn a new skill, meet new friends and maybe even pick up a new hobby. Sessions will be held on the evenings of the first and third Tuesdays throughout summer. You will need to register for each class individually, but you can participate in as many sessions as you want. We look forward to seeing you at camp this summer.

May 19	Nature Photography
June 2	Canoeing
June 16	Discover a Prairie
July 7	Frog Gigging
July 21	Archery
August 4	Atlatl

Scout Program

May 5 • Tuesday • Evening
Registration required (scouts)
Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri scout groups of 10–24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact the Discovery Center at (816) 759-7300 or discovery.center@mdc.mo.gov to schedule an evening program on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Introduction to Geocaching

May 16 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)
Geocaching is a fun outdoor activity the whole family will enjoy! This adventurous “treasure hunt” combines technology and nature which makes it exciting for all ages. Join us for an introduction to the basics of geocaching and leave with a fun new way to go out and explore nature!

Troost Festival

May 16 · Saturday · Noon–10 PM

Join the Discovery Center staff at the 11th Annual Troost Ave Festival located at 31st Street and Troost Ave. This family friendly street fair will have a diverse mix of music, dancers and other performances, children's activities and food. The Discovery Center staff will be at the festival from Noon until 2:30 p.m. so stop by, say hello and try out the fun activity we will offer.

Adult Summer Camp: Nature Photography

May 19 · Tuesday · 6–9 PM

Registration required begins May 1 (adults)

Creating great nature photos is all about being in the right place at the right time. Be with us as we explore the Discovery Center gardens in search of beautiful



blooms and photo ops! We'll supply digital cameras and the expertise to enhance and improve your picture taking skills. Geared mostly for beginners, you are welcome to bring

your own camera or borrow one of ours. We'll look at and discuss our new images, and make a print to take home.

Homeschool on the Prairie

Friday · May 22 · 10 AM–1 PM

No registration required

Did you know that Kansas City is home to 200 acres of native prairie remnant? Join us for a fun day at Smith Prairie where you will have the opportunity to discover the amazing diversity that prairies offer. Take part in hands on activities like insect netting, prairie mammals, and prairie plants. Please call 816-759-7300 for directions.

Adult Summer Camp: Canoeing

June 2 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required begins May 1 (adults)

Canoeing provides a fun recreational opportunity to enjoy water environments. This beginner's level program will teach you basic paddle strokes and allow time to practice and explore. We will go to a nearby pond, get specific directions when you register for the program.

Native Plant and Bird Walk!

June 2 · Tuesday · 7–8 PM

Walk-in (Adults; 14+ are welcome to attend with adult participant)

Join Burroughs Audubon members for an evening fun at the Discovery Center. Following a short business meeting at 7 p.m., small groups will be escorted through the gardens to see what plants, insects, birds and other creatures may be found.

Know Your Herps

Saturday · June 6 · 10 AM–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Would you like to be a herpetologist for a day? Slither or hop down to the Discovery Center for a day devoted to Missouri's amphibians and reptiles. You will have the opportunity to get up close with live animals like snakes and turtles, attempt to jump farther than a frog and take part in many other hands on activities.

Nature Nuts Storytime

June 6 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

June 20 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books.

Adult Summer Camp: Discover a Prairie

June 16 · Tuesday · 5:30–8:30 PM

Registration required begins May 1 (adults)

Discover and explore a Kansas City original. Meet at the Discovery Center and we will take a van to south Kansas City to explore Jerry Smith Park – Kansas City's last remnant of original tallgrass prairie. June is the best month for prairie wildflowers.

Fishing Fun

June 20 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Have you always wanted to learn how to fish with something besides worms? Parents, want to take your kids fishing, but feel a little rusty or unsure of where to start? Join us for a fun day of learning the basics as well as some advanced fishing techniques. Learn equipment needed, knots to use and where to fish locally. You'll leave more confident so you can have more fishing fun this summer.



Nature & Art Exhibit Captures the Moment

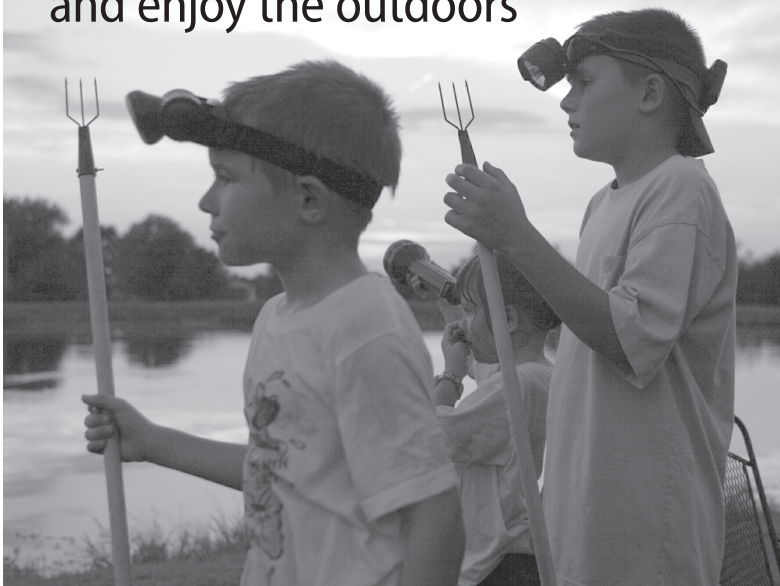
Discovery Center is pleased to have the artwork of Mary Ann Foster on display during May and June. Art and nature have always been a part of Mary Ann's life. Whether it was painting palm trees as a child in California or drawing early spring flowers in Missouri, she felt complete with nature and a paintbrush.

Mary Ann's education is from Stephen's College, Old Dominion College, UMKC and the Art Institute. As a former art teacher for 23 years at Raytown and Raytown South High Schools, and Richardson Elementary, she had the opportunity to pass on her passion to students of all ages.

Mary Ann's message to her students was simple; sit in the field, draw among nature's elements, and capture the moment. She and her husband, Tom, are retired but her paintbrushes and colored pencils are not. Today Mary Ann enjoys painting wildflowers, waterfalls and more while on walks at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area or on visits to Roaring River State Park. The Discovery Center is thankful to have her as a volunteer where she continues to pass on her passion for art to children of all ages.

Marjolein Bastin, artist, once said "Stop, and look...the small, simple things in nature bring so much richness to life." The Discovery Center hopes that you will take the time to stop, look and appreciate the artwork of Mary Ann Foster.

Come out of hibernation and enjoy the outdoors



Frog season in Missouri starts June 30 and runs through October.

The months of May and June bring some great outdoor opportunities in Missouri. In May, spring turkey season is well on its way with many hunters having already harvested a gobbler. For many outdoorsmen the end of turkey season is the beginning of summer fun in the outdoors.

May and June offer sunny days with pleasant temperatures, a fine season to visit an MDC shooting range. Trap and skeet shooting are very popular at several of the manned ranges. These shotgun sports are an excellent way to maintain your wingshooting skills for next autumn's waterfowl and upland game seasons.

If you are looking for a challenging outdoor adventure in water, frog gigging

might be your ticket. Frog season in Missouri starts June 30 and runs through October. This is a great opportunity to get out with some of your friends to harvest frogs. Later you can fry up some tasty frog legs.

Oh, and don't forget the fabulous fishing opportunities we have here in Missouri. After limiting out on frogs and catching a few crappie, fry it all up with your best personal batter made from your own special ingredients. This is one great way to enjoy the outdoors while pleasing the pallet with some tasty food. So get the fryer started, take a cold beverage in hand and enjoy the official start of summer in Missouri.

*— Justin Kliethermes
Lake City Range Assistant*

Lake City Shooting Range to host exhibition shooter

Dave Miller, exhibition shooter and world record holder, will demonstrate his shotgun skills in a free exhibition at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, at the Lake City Shooting Range, 28505 E. Truman Road, Buckner, Mo. Miller is a professional shotgun shooter and a master class sporting clays shooter.

Miller on May 16 entered the Guinness World Records book by breaking 3,653 clay targets in 60 minutes at a shooting range in Harrisonville, Mo. He shot one target every .82 of a second, firing from the hip with assistants reloading and handing him shotguns. Miller, of Grain Valley, Mo., competes in sporting clays tournaments and enjoys entertaining audiences with his shooting skills. He is a project manager for CZ-USA, a firearms company.

A variety of firearms will be available for the public to shoot during the range's shooting hours. Visitors will have an opportunity to shoot trap, skeet and five-stand. Families are welcome. MDC staff and volunteers will be on hand to assist shooters. For more information contact Lake City Shooting Range at 816-249-3194 or at www.mdc.mo.gov/node/282.

Calling all gardeners for annual plant exchange

The Ninth Annual Citywide Plant and Seed Exchange will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 2 at the Discovery Center. All gardeners are encouraged to pot extra plants and cuttings, label them and bring them to trade with other gardeners. Feel free also to bring in seeds, bulbs, tubers and cuttings. Please make sure they are plainly marked.

Plan on this event and give yourself time to dig up extras to share with others. Please do not bring weedy, invasive or super-common plants. Bring a few, take a few; bring a lot, take a lot. Everyone is invited and it's Free!



MDC Discover Nature programs help Missourians discover and explore nature while providing expert instruction and hands-on activities.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Discovery Center, Parma Woods and Lake City Shooting Ranges

will be closed for these state holidays:

**Truman Day,
Friday, May 8**

**Memorial Day
Monday, May 25**